(i) To develop a long range vision for the North East as a region in the context of liberalization, bio-technology and the information revolution and their impact so as to integrate the North East culturally, economically and politically with the rest of the country;

(ii) On the basis of the vision, to develop a pro-active strategy for the North East and to suggest measures, in the short term, for regressing militancy and establishing effective governance system s, including, *inter-alia;*

(a) to make recommendations on the specific steps necessary to improve the law and order situation in the area;

(b) to recommend the steps necessary to curb the flow of development funds to Militant Groups through extortion etc.; and

(c) to recommend a system for effective governance in the North Eastern Region based on strengths of the Region and the people.

The group has submitted first set of recommendations. These inter-alia include, measures to improve governance, accelerate development and cultural integration of North East with the rest of the country. It is also the perception of the group that some of the development funds are being siphoned off.

The group is in the process of discussing these recommendations with the concerned North Eastern States and already a meeting has taken place with the Govt. of Assam.

US Human Rights Commission's comment on minorities of Gujarat

4231. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Human Rights Commission in its Report for 2002 has commented sharply on the persecution of minorities in Gujarat;

(b) whether these comments include the recent move of the Gujarat Government for a door-to-door survey of the Christians living in the State; and

(c) whether India has made its position clear before the international community through NHRC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The US Commission on International Religious Freedom has commented adversely in its report for 2002 on violence against minorities in Gujarat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the National Human Rights Commission hears complaints of human rights violations and make suitable recommendations to the authorities in India. It does not issue any statement on reports emanating from other countries. However, the Indian Ambassador to the United States has taken up the matter with the Chairman of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom and clarified the position with a view to correcting many of the misperceptions regarding the communal violence in Gujarat in March, 2002.

Safety of Women in Delhi

4232. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports captioned "City (Delhi) is now safe for women, says Commissioner" appeared in the media;

(b) if so, the measures devised and action initiated to ensure safety of the women folk in the capital city and how far it has been successful; and

(c) the preventive measures initiated to instil confidence among the women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi Police accords top priority to the prevention and detection of crime against women. Crimes against women are constantly analysed and steps are taken accordingly to prevent such crimes in future. The preventive measures to instil confidence among women include streamlining the functioning of Crime Against Women Cell; stationing of Police Control Room vehicles near women institutions and places frequented by them; deployment of police personnel at the Girls/ Women institutions to instil a sense of security; preventive action against